



**Blakely City Council  
Special Called Meeting Agenda  
City Hall**

**August 20, 2020**

**6:00 P.M.**

**I) Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance**

Let the record show that Mayor Travis Wimbush called the meeting to order. Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Clenney, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett were all present. Also present was the City Attorney, Hayden Hooks and the City Clerk Melinda Crook. There was a moment of silence to honor those lost to COVID-19 and also to honor Jesse Sampley, a 12-year-old Blakely citizen, battling cancer. Commissioner Charlie Sol gave the invocation. The Mayor, Council and Public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II) Citizens And Delegations**

Jerry Tiner – Citizen Concern

Mr. Tiner restated items that he addressed at the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. He went over several portions of the employee handbook. He addressed an incident that had taken place on August 5<sup>th</sup>, by an employee. He stated that an employee had performed bondsman duties using a City vehicle, in his City uniform while two temp employees waiting in the vehicle. He stated that special privileges have been shown this employee. He spoke on the items he had received thru open records requests. Councilmember Hutchins stated that he had never seen Mr. Tiner's assets to which Mr. Tiner informed him that he could see them any time.

Marcus Sack/Adam Askew presentation

Mr. Marcus Sack addressed the Council regarding the work he has been doing for the City and work that still needs to be done for EPD. He explained why his company was contracted. He informed the Council that the City has until 2022 to correct issues that EPD has identified. He explained what has been happening with high flows during heavy rain events. He informed the Council that it had been put out for bid, earlier this year, to camera the entire sewer system. He then informed the Council that the bid was \$675,076.10 and \$66,528 to do a process called SL/RAP. He explained about the SL/RAP process. He recommended the SL/RAP option to the Council as well as the City purchasing their own camera system, camera the worst areas identified by the SL/RAP process and work their way down to the least bad areas. He stated that the City could purchase three camera systems for the cost to camera the entire system.

**III) City Attorney's Report**

Face Mask Resolution

The City Attorney, Hayden Hooks, spoke on the Governors Order giving more authority regarding face masks in government buildings. She stated that this was especially due to buildings where court would be held. She stated that this resolution would cover for City Hall and the Government Complex. There was discussion on possibly adding another resolution that would encompass all City buildings.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the Face Mask Resolution. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

#### **IV) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council**

##### Millage Rate

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the 2020 Millage Rate of 4.20. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

##### Blakely Net

The Mayor spoke of the past meetings regarding BlakelyNet and Diverse Power. The City Attorney, Hayden Hooks, stated that the pole attachment agreement and lease agreement need to be approved for everything else to move forward. She mentioned that there may be something additional regarding Diverse setting their own poles inside City limits. There was discussion regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement with SGRITA to transfer the assets. She stated that the Intergovernmental Agreement would take the bidding process out of the equation. There was further discussion regarding SGRITA, the loan and sale to Diverse Power. Hayden then stated that the current agreement between the City and Diverse Power would need to be extended due to the previous extension only going through August 13th. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to extend the current agreement with Diverse for an additional 30 days. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

##### Gateway

Lane Davis informed the Council that there were two potential local contractors with one being in Albany and one being in Alabama and that they had shown interest in bidding on the Gateway project. He reminded the Council that EMC would charge \$4,500 to put it back out for bid and \$12,500 to supervise the project but the supervision cost could be lowered if the City supervised also. Councilmember Jarrett questioned if both of these contractors were DOT certified to which Lane responded that the one in Albany was and the one in Alabama was in the process of getting certified. Councilmember Jarrett questioned the time frame to put the project back out for bid. Lane stated that EMC was ready to move but that the de-obligation of the funds would need to be questioned. Lane then went through the steps. The Mayor asked the Council to review the documents that had been previously presented to them to address any questions or concerns at the September Council meeting.

#### **V) Public Comments**

Mr. Tiner addressed another section of the personnel policy regarding second jobs by employees. He also questioned if the employee would be required to pay back the City for time spent doing bondsman work and the use of the City vehicle

Commissioner Charlie Sol spoke about a need for easier access between Brown Jewelers and the Chamber. He spoke on accessibility for strollers and wheelchairs in this area

Ms. Tiner spoke of the bondsman Ordinance for assets. She also spoke about putting the temp workers in a bad spot when the employee took them to the jail with him. She questioned what would happen to any other employee if they had done the same thing. She also spoke on the time the employee spent doing bondsman work.

Ms. Celia Bostwick spoke on the Gateway Project. She stated she was very concerned about it being dropped. She spoke on tourism in GA. She spoke on how the project could bring business and visitors to Early County and of a tourism plan.

**VI) Executive Session**

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to enter into Executive Session for personnel and real estate/litigation matters. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to return to regular session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

It was stated that the employee reprimand could be done according to the Supervisor recommendations

The Mayor spoke on the Census and that numbers are still low. He again asked the Council for possible ideas to increase the numbers.

The Mayor spoke on the Cares Act Funding

The Mayor asked the Council to research things that could be done to keep employees and citizens safe

The Mayor spoke of the closure of the Senior Center and that Seniors are still getting meals. He also stated that it was being looked into about the continued use of the building.

**VII) Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to adjourn the August 20th Special Called Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

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Travis Wimbush, Mayor